High Commission also contacted the Australian Government. As a result of these efforts, a written apology has been tendered by the organisers to the Hindu Council of Australia and all posters have been removed.

Cotton production in Gujarat

*172. SHRI PRAFULL GORADIA: Will- the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been a record production of cotton this year, particularly, in Gujarat;

(b) whether Government are purchasing all the cotton brought by farmers in mandis at the support price; and

(c) what other measures have been taken to ensure that farmers do not suffer losses on account of higher production?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI NITISH KUMAR): (a) The production of cotton during last three years at All India level and also in Gujarat is given as under:—

(Production in lakh bales of 170 kgs each)

Year	Gujarat	All India
1997-98	31.80	108.51
1998-99	39.35	121.77
1999-2000 (Advance Estimates)	26.32	125.20

(b) The Cotton Corporation of India (CCI) has been made nodal agency to procure entire cotton offered by farmers under the Price Support Scheme. CCI intervenes when the market prices touch Minimum Support Prices declared by the Government.

I To ensure that farmers do not suffer loss, rather get remunerative prices, the Government of India has taken following steps:—

(ii) The Government of India fixes MSP for two varieties of cotton

viz. F-414/H-777/J-34 and, H-4 to ensure that farmers get reasonable margin of profit. The MSP of other varieties are fixed by the office of Textile Commissioner based on MSP of the aforesaid two varieties and taking into account the normal price differential and other related factors. The MSP fixed for the last two years are given in the table below:—

Table: Rate of MSP fixed by the Government.

(Rs. Per Quintal)

Variety of Cotton	1998-99	1999-2000	"/•increase
F-414/H-777/J-34	1440	1575	9.37
H4	1650	1775	7.58

(ii) The Government releases cotton export quota in phases during each season with a view- to balance the interest of cotton growers on the one hand and cotton consumers such as textiles mills and handloom and powerloom weavers on the other hand.

Unemployment Problem

*173. SHRI S. AGNIRAJ: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of candidates in waiting lists in Employment Exchanges, State-wise;

(b) what steps are being taken to create more jobs;

(c) what is the percentage of increase of persons seeking Government jobs;

(d) whether Government are proposing to give any unemployment allowance to the waiting persons; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYA NARAYAN JATIYA):

(a) to (e) The total number of job seekers, all of whom are not necessarily unemployed. Who were registerd with the